

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services Department Wide Permanency Initiative

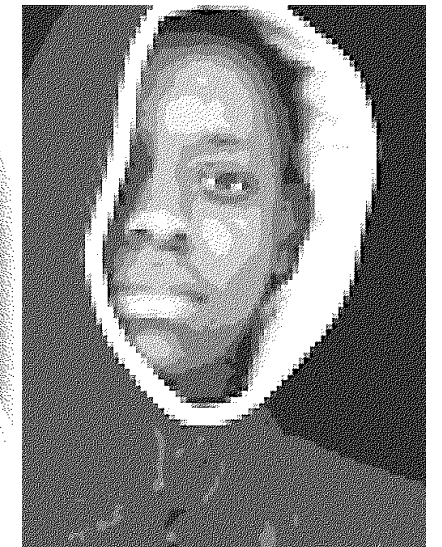
Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services believes that every young person is entitled to a legally permanent home and a family of their own. Achieving timely permanency for every child in out of home care is a top priority. It is urgent and it is achievable. All children deserve a legally permanent home through reunification, adoption or legal guardianship. Of these, safe reunification is our first and foremost priority. Long term Foster Care (AKA Planned Permanent Living Arrangement) is no longer an acceptable long-term plan for any of our children or youth.

Youth Permanency Definition As defined by the California Permanency for Youth Task Force:

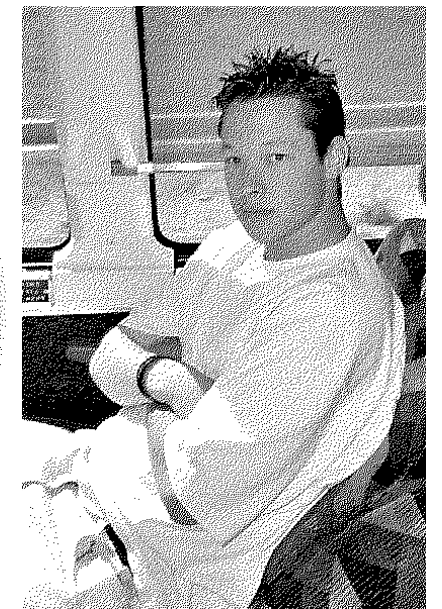
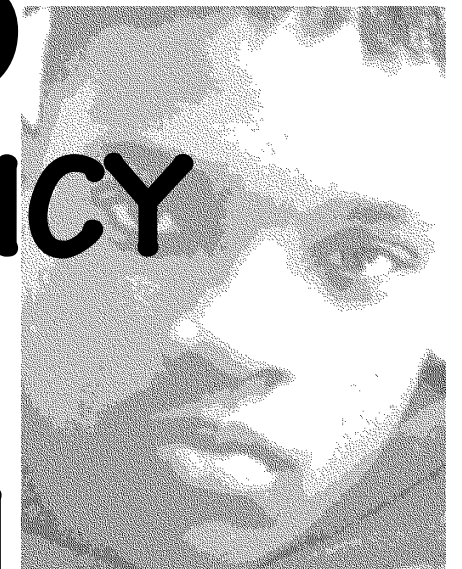
Permanency is both a process and a result that includes involvement of the youth as a participant or leader in defining for themselves what permanency means and in finding a permanent connection with at least one committed adult, who provides:

- ◆ *A safe, stable and secure parenting relationship,*
- ◆ *Love,*
- ◆ *Unconditional commitment, and*
- ◆ *Lifelong support in the context of reunification, a legal adoption, or guardianship, where possible;*

and in which the youth has the opportunity to maintain contacts with important persons, including brothers & sisters. A Broad array of individualized permanency options exist; reunification and adoption are an important two among many that may be appropriate.



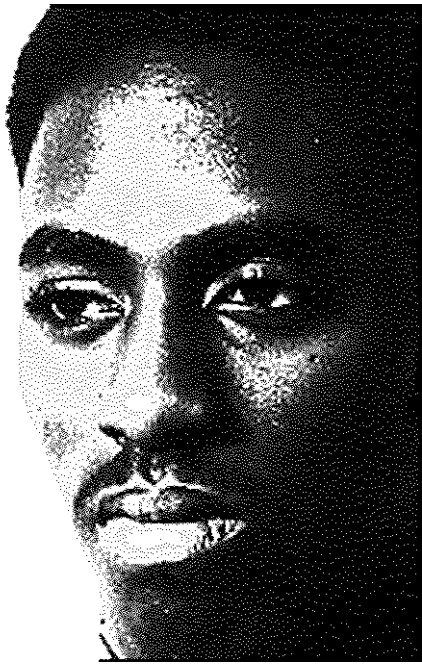
A GUIDE TO PERMANENCY OPTIONS FOR YOUTH



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